

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 1 below the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Application" with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional of copending U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/381,810 filed October 19, 1999, now US Patent 6,252,046, which is the national phase of PCT/JP98/01371 filed March 27, 1998 and claiming priority from Japanese Hei-9-094845 filed March 28, 1997.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 35 with the following amended paragraph:

Meanwhile, the expression of the aquapolin ~~aquelin~~-family mentioned above has been confirmed in such organs as kidney, brain, gall bladder, eye, intestine, salivary gland and bronchus but there is no report as yet about the occurrence of membrane proteins having water channel activity in other organs or tissues, particularly in adipose tissue.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

The above-mentioned DNA sequence given under SEQ ID NO:2 corresponds to the nucleotide sequence of cDNA obtained from human adipose tissue by cloning. Human adipose tissue is a tissue which stores fat as energy reserves. It is known that various proteins are formed in this adipose tissue. A 3'-directed DNA library is known as a cDNA library from which the genes actually expressed in this adipose tissue or, in other words, the mRNA composition in this adipose tissue can be copied faithfully. This 3'-directed DNA library contains only those specified 3'-terminal regions of mRNAs which range from poly(A) to the MboI site which is a restriction enzyme recognition site upstream of said poly(A) and, therefore, said library is suited for template preparation by the PCR technique. Therefore, by extracting a clone from this library and using it to determine a longer nucleotide sequence including the amino acid coding region from this

complete adipose tissue cDNA library, it becomes possible to obtain the genetic information concerning the protein which is actually formed in adipose tissue. The DNA sequence of the present invention as shown under the above-mentioned SEQ ID NO:2 is found by such cloning. A method of obtaining the cDNA by cloning from human adipose ~~adepose~~ tissue is now described in detail.